

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress

1st Session

Vote No. 448

September 20, 1995, 12:37 p.m.

Page S-13913 Temp. Record

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS/Advance Deficiency Payments

SUBJECT: Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . H.R. 1976. Conrad modified amendment No. 2698.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 34-64

SYNOPSIS: As reported, H.R. 1976, the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996, will provide \$63.78 billion in new budget authority, 80 percent of which will be for mandatory spending programs, and 63 percent of which will be for food welfare programs.

The Conrad modified amendment would forgive up to \$2,500 of a farmer's advance deficiency payment due for a 1995 crop if that farmer suffered a loss of 35 percent or more of that crop due to weather or related conditions. Forgiveness would only be allowed for payments due from that percentage of the loss for which crop insurance was unavailable (thus, if insurance could have been obtained for 75 percent of a crop, forgiveness could only be given for that portion of the deficiency payment due that applied to the other 25 percent). No more than \$35 million would be provided to forgive deficiency payments. The cost of the amendment would be offset by reducing the authorization for the Export Enhancement Program.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

This year many farmers who received advance deficiency payments to plant crops have had those crops destroyed by inclement weather. Because commodity prices have risen sharply, they now have to repay large amounts, even though they have no crops at all to sell. Ordinarily, they would have had adequate amounts of insurance or would have received disaster assistance, but this year the new crop insurance program that was just enacted has them in a bind. They misunderstood the amount of coverage they would get from the new program, plus Congress is refusing to provide disaster aid. The Conrad amendment would relieve this problem partially, by letting farmers off the hook for that portion of their advance deficiency payments they must repay that apply to the uninsured portions of their crops. The relief would only apply for crops damaged or destroyed due to weather, and no farmer would receive more than \$2,500 in debt forgiveness. Further, the cost would be fully offset. The Conrad amendment is a fair proposal that

(See other side)

YEAS (34)		NAYS (64)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republicans (8 or 15%)	Democrats (26 or 58%)	Republicans (45 or 85%)	Democrats (19 or 42%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Burns	Akaka	Abraham	Helms	Biden	Hatfield- ^{3AN}
Cochran	Baucus	Ashcroft	Hutchison	Boxer	Pryor- ⁴
Grassley	Bingaman	Bennett	Inhofe	Bradley	
Jeffords	Breaux	Bond	Kempthorne	Byrd	
Kassebaum	Bryan	Brown	Kyl	Dodd	
Lott	Bumpers	Campbell	Lugar	Feingold	
Pressler	Conrad	Chafee	Mack	Feinstein	
Stevens	Daschle	Coats	McCain	Glenn	
	Dorgan	Cohen	McConnell	Graham	
	Exon	Coverdell	Murkowski	Kennedy	
	Ford	Craig	Nickles	Kerrey	
	Harkin	D'Amato	Packwood	Kerry	
	Heflin	DeWine	Roth	Kohl	
	Hollings	Dole	Santorum	Lautenberg	
	Inouye	Domenici	Shelby	Levin	
	Johnston	Faircloth	Simpson	Lieberman	
	Leahy	Frist	Smith	Mikulski	
	Moseley-Braun	Gorton	Snowe	Nunn	
	Moynihan	Gramm	Specter	Pell	
	Murray	Grams	Thomas		
	Reid	Gregg	Thompson		
	Robb	Hatch	Thurmond		
	Rockefeller		Warner		
	Sarbanes				
	Simon				
	Wellstone				

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

merits our support.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

It is a little early for Christmas. Farmers are wonderful people, and many would surely appreciate a \$2,500 gift from Congress, but that gift would be paid for by the American people through their taxes. We are doing everything possible to reduce taxes and reduce Government spending. The farmers in our States, we are certain, will understand why we cannot support giving this extra subsidy.